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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning the plight of the Lebanese detainees being held in Israeli prisons and in the detention camps established by the Israeli occupation authorities inside Lebanese territory, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter from the Follow-up Committee for the support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons addressed to Mr. Selim Hoss, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon (see annex). The letter provides information on the situation of the Lebanese being held in Israeli prisons and in the detention camps inside occupied Lebanese territory that are under the supervision of the Israeli occupation forces, with particular reference to their state of health, to the presence among them of juveniles and women as well as persons who are elderly and infirm and to the repression, torture and neglect they must endure at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities in violation of the relevant international covenants and all humanitarian principles.

I must here recall the improper decision adopted by the Supreme Court of Israel on 4 March 1998, whereby the Israeli authorities were granted permission to hold Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps without trial and to keep them as hostages and as a bargaining chip. This constitutes a flagrant violation of all the relevant international covenants and conventions and, in particular, of the fourth Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocol I, which require civilians under foreign occupation to be protected from torture and arbitrary detention. Moreover, this decision, which has the goal of imparting a gloss of legality to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, is to be classed as State terrorism that Israel commits against Lebanese civilians through its various practices. The latter include the artillery bombardments to which they are subjected on an almost daily basis,

persistent arbitrary abductions and arrests, excruciating torture, the destruction of their homes, the confiscation of their property, their expulsion from their domiciles, the encirclement of their villages and other practices.

I am also transmitting to you a detailed schedule giving such basic information about these Lebanese civilians as the date of their arrest and their state of health, as vivid testimony to be placed before world opinion and the world Organization (see appendix).

In the light of the foregoing, we request your assistance in bringing an end to this tragedy, of whose far-reaching dimensions you learned from the mothers of the detainees at the time of your last visit to Lebanon. We are confident that you will spare no effort and leave no means untried in order to assist the detainees in whatever ways you deem appropriate and effective.

As we convey to you in advance our deep gratitude for any step you will be able to take in this matter by virtue of your position and your high personal standing, which ensures you the trust and respect of all, we ask you to accept, Sir, the expression of our sincere affection and esteem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40, 46 and 110.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter from the national Follow-up Committee for the support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons addressed to the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon

The Follow-up Committee for the support of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons, anticipating your success in your great national task, is hopeful that you will give your attention to an important issue for the nation, namely that of the Lebanese hostages in Israeli prisons. The fact is that Israel is holding 183 Lebanese hostages, 140 of them in Khiyam detention camp and 43 in prisons inside Israel (at Ashkelon, Ayalon, Nafhah, etc.).

The age-range of the detainees is 14 to 75. They have been held hostage in Khiyam detention camp since 1985 without any legal grounds, without charge and without trial, and they are not allowed to engage lawyers for their defence.

Israel supervises this detention camp, and Israeli intelligence interrogates detainees before taking them to Khiyam or to Israeli prisons.

Fourteen prisoners have died under torture in the camp, and two, namely Salim Awwadah and Rida Yusuf Mustafa, have died at the American University of Beirut Hospital after their release.

Rheumatism, thalassaemia, memory loss, vision problems and stomach pains are widespread among the detainees owing to the absence of health care and because of malnutrition and defective lighting.

There are sick and wounded in the Khiyam camp. Sulayman Ramadan's foot was amputated in 1985 in an Israeli hospital because of delays in treatment, and he is now facing the threat of another amputation because the first procedure was faulty.

Israel is holding a number of juveniles in the camp, such as 14-year-old Ali Mustafa Tawbah, who is being held with his father, Mustafa Tawbah, and 15-year-old Muhammad Qazan. There are also elderly persons such as 60-year-old Ali Ghanawi, 64-year-old Muhammad Salim Qatibay and 75-year-old Hasan Muhammad Sa'id. There are four mothers, namely: Fatimah Abd al-Nabi, being held with her husband, Muhammad al-Sayyid; Samirah Sharaf al-Din; 70-year-old Al-Abdah Malikani, being held with her husband, Al-Kahl Hasan Sa'id; and Yvonne Suwaydi, also being held with her husband, Bulus Abu Zayd.

As for those abducted and taken to Israeli prisons, it must be said that removing them from the occupied area of Lebanon and bringing them to trial are in violation of articles 49 and 76 of the [fourth] Geneva Convention. Article 49 states that "Individual or mass forcible transfers [...] from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power [...] are prohibited, regardless of their motive".

Abductions are a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, and the sentences against those abducted that are handed down by Israeli military courts are illegal and inconsistent with the international standards for fair trials.

Although 19 of the prisoners at Ayalon Prison have completed their sentences, every six months Israel extends their detention. This is despite the fact that nine years have passed since some of them, such as Bilal Dakrub and Ahmad Ammar, completed their sentences.

Trials are purely pro forma, and there is no difference between those tried, those who have served their sentences and those being held without trial. All of them are hostages.

By its decision of 13 November 1997, the Supreme Court of Israel acknowledged that the Lebanese detainees are hostages and are a bargaining chip.

That Israel has enshrined hostage-taking and torture in its laws is a flagrant violation of international law and sets a precedent that is the first of its kind in the world. It has never before happened in all of history that a court of justice has sanctioned the taking of hostages. Some detainees were not tried following their abduction, and they are languishing in prisons that the International Committee of the Red Cross is forbidden to enter and are not allowed to exchange letters with their families. Examples of this are Sheikh Abd al-Karim Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani.

In the desert prison at Nafhah, Samir al-Qintar is incarcerated. He is the longest serving Lebanese prisoner in the Israeli prison system, having been placed in detention for life on 22 April 1979. He is not allowed to meet with his family or his brothers despite the fact that it is 20 years since he was first arrested. Most of the detainees endure difficult physical and mental conditions since their families are prevented from visiting them and they live in complete isolation from the world.

Dozens of Lebanese are also being held whose existence is not acknowledged and whose fate remains unknown.

The charges made against detainees can be summarized as follows:

(a) Resistance to the Israeli occupation;

(b) Refusal to enlist in the militias collaborating with Israel;

(c) Refusal to pay duties and taxes;

(d) Dealing with the Lebanese Government and providing information to the Lebanese Army;

(e) Possession of cell phones;

(f) Refusing Israeli assistance and the organization of tourist visits to Israel.

The issue of the Lebanese hostages in Khiyam camp and in Israeli prisons is an international humanitarian problem, and it therefore requires that the United Nations, the world's governments and Arab and international humanitarian organizations should launch an international campaign to bring pressure to bear on Israel to close Khiyam camp and to release all the Lebanese hostages being held in Israeli prisons.

APPENDIX

List of Israeli detention camps and the number of detainees in each

Detention Camp	Number of detainees
Khiam Detention Camp	140
Asskalan Detention Camp (Asskalan IDC)	13
Aayloun Detention Camp (Ayloun IDC)	19
Al Sarafand Detention Camp (Al Sarafand IDC)	2
Nafha Detention Camp (Nafha IDC)	2
Shatta Detention Camp (Shatta IDC)	2
Nabluss Detention Camp (Nabluss IDC)	1
Unknown	4
Total	183

Date: 3/11/98

Hostages in Khiam Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	situation	Personal proffesion	condition
1- Soleiman Ramadan	Baalbak	1965	17/09/85	Single	Labourer	Amputated leg
2- Ali Al Saghir	Bint Jbeil	1969	11/86	Single	Labourer	Gastric problems
3- Riad Kalakish	Dibbin	1967	02/86	Single	Labourer	Gastric problems+difficulty breathing
4- Samir Kassem	Yuhmor	1966	04/88	Single	Student	Lost an eye
5- Tayssir Sha'aban	Beit Yahoun	1958	10/86	Single	Labourer	Allergy+Ulcer
6- Mujib Turmuss	Talloussa	1972	05/08/89		Carpenter	Sick
7- Ali Hijazi	Dibbin	1961	21/08/89		Labourer	Amputated leg
8- Mustafa Arabieh	Sarafand	1964	1991		Labourer	Ulcer-severe body cramp
9- Yasser Halawi	Kafarkilla		01/01/92		Carpenter	
10- Ali Halawi	Kafarkilla		01/01/92		Engineer	
11- Nehmeh Dakdouk	Aita Sha'ib	1975	06/92		Painter	Pneumo-allergic
12- Adel Kalakish	Dobbin		27/02/93		Labourer	Gastric & Cardiac problems
13- Nimr Al Ghaddaf	Dobbin		27/08/93		Soldier	
14- Ahmad Hassan	Dobbin		08/93		Soldier	Gastric Problems
15- Issam Awada	Nakoura	1975	02/02/94		Baker	Stone in kidney+disc

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16- Hussein Awad	Houla		10/02/94	Labourer	Ulcer
17- Ziad Ghanwi	Houla		03/94	Student	
18- Samer Hijazi	Houla		18/03/94	Student	
19- Mohamad Nayef	Kafarkilla		04/94	Labourer	Ear infection
20- Izzat Yassin	Houla		08/93	Soldier	
21- Abdel Rahman Abboud	Houla	1961	10/08/94	Trader	
22- Mohamad Rizk	Houla	1972	01/01/95	Labourer	
23- Mohamad Turmuss	Tallousse		23/01/05		
24- Mahmoud Jafal	Rishaf		21/03/95		
25- Hussein Mukasher	Beit Yahoun		01/01/95		
26- Adham Ramal	Odeissy	1958	09/95	Car mechanic tech.	
27- Saleh Ramal	Odeissy	1961	09/95	Labourer	
28- Abdel Hamid Yahya	Rishaf		14/11/95	Labourer	
29- Mustafa Sadaka	Khiam	1964	1996	Labourer	Eyes aches
30- Mohamad Oseily	Bint Jbeil		01/01/96	Sells cloth	
31- Mohamad Sha'ar	Hibberieh		04/01/96	Seargeant	
32- Ali Kassem	Houla		19/01/96	Student	
33- Hussein Sadek	Khiam		05/96	Student	
34- Hasan Barakat	Rub Thalathin		07/96		
35- Bilal Kassem	Yarein		07/96		

36. Ahmad Barakat	Rub Thalathin		07/96	Labourer	
37- Ali Dibssi	Blat		01/01/96		
38- Mohamad Moussa	Blida		01/01/96		
39- Hassan Bazzi	Bint Jbeil	1967	27/08/96	Elecrical Engineer	
40- Ali Ghanwi	Houla	1934	1996	Broker	Gastric & Cardiac problems
41- Khijar She'ib	Khiam		02/09/96		
42- Mousa Ataya	Teyr Hirfa		11/96	Carpenter	
43- Karam Mustafa	Houla		18/03/97	Electric tech.	Disc
44- Moussa Ghoson	Khiam		24/07/97	Salesman	
45- Hamid Darwish	Aytaroun	1978	01/07/97		
46- Kamal Khoreizat	Aytaroun		01/07/97		
47- Hussein Hijazi	Aytaroun		01/07/97		
48- Wajih Hijazi	Aytaroun	1969	01/07/97	Labourer	
49- Fouad Mourad	Aytaroun	1964	01/07/97		
50- Nabil Abdalla	Aytaroun		01/07/97		
51- Hassib Fakih	Taybeh		01/07/97		
52- Kastro Baydoun	Aytaroun	1962	01/07/97	Labourer	
53- Mohamad Kawsan	Aytaroun		01/07/97	Bakery	
54- Ghassan Issa	Maroun Rass		08/07/97		
55- Haydar Issa	Maroun Rass		10/07/97		

56- Hassan Droubi	Khiam		01/07/97			
57- Ahmad Sadek	Khiam		01/07/97			
58- Ahmad Sheikh Ali	Khiam		01/07/97			
59- Adib Issa	Blida		01/02/97			
60- Khalil Karneeb	Maroun Rass	1970	20/07/97	Single	Farmer	Brain Concussion
61- Sleiman Karneeb	Maroun Rass	1974	24/07/97	Single	Farmer	Thalassaemic
62- Ibrahim Souid	Nakoura		01/08/97			
63- Mohamad Hariss	Aita She'ib		10/08/97			
64- Mohamad Nasser	Aita She'ib		14/08/97			
65- Hussein Akeel	Khiam		02/09/97			Lost his sight
66- Hassan Horeibi	Zawtar		02/09/97			
67- Hassan Issa	Ramieh	1976	02/09/97			
68- Abbass Atiyeh	Arnoun	1972	02/10/97			
69- Mustafa Tawbeh	Arnoun	1961	02/10/97			
70- Kassem Assaf	Arnoun	1977	02/10/97			
71- Mohamad Katbey		1940	02/10/97			
72- Ali Tawbeh	Arnoun	1983	20/10/97			
73- Mohamad Hashem	Shiba'a	1947	22/11/97			
74- Oussama Nour ElDin	Hibberieh		26/11/97			
75- Atef Hashem	Shiba'a		27/11/97			

76- Kamel Ja'afar	Yaroun	01/02/97
77- Ahmad Hammoud	Kafarkilla	01/02/97
78- Hussein Hammoud	Beit Leif	01/02/97
79- Ali Mroueh	Beit Yahoun	05/09/97
80- Nadim Saab	Shiba'a	27/11/97
81- Hussein Sheiyth	Kafarkilla	01/12/97
82- Ibrahim Sheiyth	Kafarkilla	01/12/97
83- Nabil Jouna'a	Kafarkilla	10/12/97
84- Abbass Sukeini	Blat	18/12/97
85- Marwan Kana'an	Shiba'a	24/12/97
86- Akram Ba'albaki	Odeissi	25/12/97
87- Yahya Abboud	Odeissi	25/12/97
88- Bassam Ghaddar	Shiba'a	29/12/97
89- Ghandi Ayoub	Houla	10/97
90- Kheir Abdalla	Khiam	02/09/97
91- Khalil Diab	Hasbaya	03/01/98
92- Habib Ibrahim	Blida	22/01/98
93- Ibrahim Abu Sari	Al Fardyss	23/01/98
94- Maher Hamdan	Shiba'a	03/02/98
95- Tale'e Abu Rashed	Al Fardyss	03/02/98

96- Ayman Lakiss	Al Fardyss		03/02/98		
97- Khaled Abou Sari	Al Fardyss		06/02/98		
98- Mohamad Hamdan	Shiba'a		16/02/98		
99- Rabah Abou Faour	Kh. Hasbia	1982	02/03/98		Student
100-Mohamad Kazan	Tibie	1983	16/03/98		Student
101-Mohamd Abdalla	Khiam		01/07/98		
102-Bilal Naba'a	Shiba'a		06/98		
103-Samira Sharaf ElDin	Tibie	1973	02/04/98	Engaged	
104-Fatmeh Abdel Nabi	Aita She'ib	1964	08/03/98	Married and the mother of 3 children	
105-Mohamad Al Sayed	Aita She'ib	1963	04/02/98	Married	
106-Abbass Koussan	Tibei		23/04/98		
107-Mohsin Koussan	Tibei		23/04/98		
108-Ali Kashmar	Tibei		23/04/98		
109-Mohamad Abboud	Odeissi		01/05/98		
110-Yousseff Hamoushi	Odeissi		27/05/98		
111-Nayef Gaith	Bayada	1971	27/05/98	Single	Customs employee
112-Ali Alyan	Bayada	1973	27/05/98	Married	Fisherman
113-Ali Ramal	Odeissi		14/06/98		
114-Ahmad Srour	Aita She'ib		02/03/98		
115-Zeid Sriwi	Hasbia		02/01/98		

116-Ali Marmar	Tibei		25/06/98	Married	Labourer
117-Tony Assaf			20/07/98		
118-Elie Nasralla	Rmeish		20/07/98		
119-Hussein Ramal	Odeissi		01/05/98		
120-Hussein Faraj	Bint Jbeil		01/08/98		
121-Halim Haddad	Darbet Kleiaa		01/01/98		
122-Hassan Nasr	Al Fardyss		20/02/98		
123-Malek Abboud	Odeissi		01/05/98		
124-Kassem Al Asmar	Odeissi		01/05/98		
125-Adnan Yehya	Tibei		05/02/98		
126-Bilal Abou Ta'am	Tibei		01/02/98		
127-Adib Issa	Blida		01/02/97		
128-Ibrahim Sleem			10/02/98		
129-Jamal Rahil			10/02/98		
130-Kamel Al Abdalla	Khiam		01/02/98		
131-Hassan Sa'id	Al Kassir	1928	05/09/98	Married	
132-Abdeh Malkani	Al Kassir	1933	05/09/98	Married	
133-Ghassan Said	Slima	1965	16/08/98		
134-Ali Ghazal	Arnoun	1955	07/09/98	Married	
135-Marwan Saab	Shiba'a		12/10/98		Driver

136-Raed Zein El Din	Ain Kinya		12/10/98	Barber
137-Samir Sinan	Ain Kinya		12/10/98	Soldier
138-YousseffHdife	Ain Kinya	1974	15/10/98	Phone attendant
139-Bassam Na'im	Klayha		23/10/98	Driver

Hostages in

Administrative Detention in Ayloun-Ramleh Detention Camps who have served their sentences

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	sentenced to	Notes
1- Mohamad Yassin	Majdal Silim	1963	21/02/86	9 years	Extended administrative detention
2- Kamal Rizk	Mayss El Jabal	1971	31/08/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
3- Ali Ammar	Mayss Al Jabal	1966	01/09/86	4 years	Extended administrative detention
4- Ahmad Ammar	Mayss Al Jabal	1967	01/09/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
5- Hassan Hijazi	Mayss Al Jabal	1970	01/09/86	3 years	Extended administrative detention
6- Bilal Dakroub	Tibnin	1964	17/02/86	2 and a half years	Extended administrative detention
7- Abdel Hassan Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
8- Abbass Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
9- Ahmad Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1957	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
10- Youssef Srour	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	3 years	Extended administrative detention
11- Hussein Dakdouk	Aita Sha'ib	1969	15/04/87	1 and a half years	Extended administrative detention
12- Ahmad Obeid	Jibsheet	1968	28/07/89	No Trial	
13- Hashem Fahess	Jibsheet	1967	28/07/89	No Trial	

Hostages in Asskalan Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentenced to	Health condition
1- Hassan Ankouni	Mashghara	1960	1987	Married	18 years	Osteoporesis
2- Kassem Kamass	Kabrikha	1968	16/06/87		13 years	Osteoporesis
3- Ismail El Zein	Kabrikha		16/06/87		13 years	Need surgery
4- Anwar Yassin	Dallafa	1968	16/06/87	Single	30 years	Gonad infection
5- Mohamad Birzawi	Ba'albak	1961	05/12/87	Single	18 years	Amputated finger
6- Mustafa Hammoud	Markaba	1970	05/12/88	Single	20 years	Wounded
7- Youssef Wazni	Tibnin	1962	15/12/88	Single	25 years	Hurt back
8- Jawad Kassfi	Sultanieh	1962	15/12/88	Married	Life sentence	Ear infection
9- Mohamad Bdeir	Nmeirieh	1972	13/06/91	Single	10 years	Need therapy
10- Ali Balhass	Sidikein	1968	05/10/92	Single	Life sentence	Amputated leg
11- Imad Mahfouz	Tripoli		12/10/92			
12- Ibrahim Abu Zeid	Mleikh	1953	22/11/97	Married	No Trial	
13- Paul Abu Zeid	Mleikh	1958	22/11/97	Married	No Trial	

The 6 Lebanese citizens delivered by the "Lebanese Forces Militia" to Israel on 1990 and have been held as hostages in the Ayloun detention camp since then

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentence
1- Ahmad Taleb	Odeissi	1966	May 1990	Single	No Trial
2- Ahmad Jalloul	Birj Barajneh	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
3- Hussein Tleiss	Brital	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
4- Hussein Rmeiti	Al Majadel	1963	May 1990	Single	No Trial
5- Ghassan Al Dirani	Kasr Niba	1965	May 1990	Single	No Trial
6- Hussein Ahmad	Ghobeiri	1967	May 1990	Single	No Trial

Hostages in Srafand Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentence
1- Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid	Jibsheet		28/07/89	Married	No Trial
2- Ahmad Jalloul	Kaer Niba	1951	20/05/94	Married	No Trial

Hostages in Nafha Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentence	condition
1- Samir Al Kintar	Obieh	1962	22/07/79	Single	4 life sentences	Suffers from asthma and has a bullet in his lungs
2- Mahmoud Hammoud	Yarine		01/07/93	Single	7 years	

Hostages in Unknown Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentence
1- Khalil Ja'ara	Nabatieh	1972	01/07/92	Single	4 years
2- Abdel Majid Zaytouni	Deir Kifa	1970	05/03/93	Single	
3- Ibrahim Kassem Sha'abi	Teir Hirfa				
4- Kamel Ahmad	Tripoli		1990		

Hostages in Shatta Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	Social situation	sentence
1- Kassem Faress	Nablle	1969	15/07/93	Single	7 years
2- Michael Nohra	Klein'a		03/07/97	Married	No Trial

Hostages in Nabluss Detention Camp

Name of detainee	city/village	birth year	detained on	sentence
1- Evon Souidi	Mleikh	1959	22/11/97	No Trial